

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01

RSR-01 /108 W

----- 092654

O 031000 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9565

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 05508

EO: 11652 GDS

TAGS/ PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: GVN GREATLY CONCERNED AT COMMUNIST EFFORT TO CAPTURE

TONLE CHAM

CINCHHAC FOR POLAD

REF: (A) CH USDEL FPJMC 171300 Z MAR 73 (NOTAL)

(B) SAIGON 4668 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GVN CONTINUING TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER
COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON GVN GARRISON AT TONLE CHAM ON UPPER SAIGON
RIVER. MATTER BEING RAISED AT TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION
APRIL 3 AS WELL AS IN BILATERAL PRG- GBN MEETING IN PARIS. GVN
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT DENOUNCING COMMUNIST
ATTACKS. COMMUNIST ASSAULT BEING BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF 12
SIGNATORIES OF PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET- NAM. IF COMMUNIST
ATTACKS CONTINUE , GVN MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO LAUNCH COUNTER-
ATTACK WHICH COULD LEAD TO MAJOR BATTLE.

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1. SAIGON POST AND VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE PRESS APRIL 3 HAVE CARRIED EXTENDED SUMMARY OF PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 2 BY SAIGON COMMAND SPOKESMAN, LTC HIEN. AMONG OTHER MATTERS HIEN SAID GVN HAS MADE CLEAR IN MEETING OF TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION THAT IF COMMUNIST ATTACKS CONTINUE ON TONLE CHAM (15 KM SW OF AN LOC ON UPPER REACHES OF SAIGON RIVER IN TAY NINH

P

3. SOVIET OFFICIAL' S OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRC AND ASIA

A SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL OBSERVED TO CHARGE DUBS THAT THE PRC' S EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE' S WARS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD DECLINED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ITS GOAL OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE US AND JAPAN. HE REPORTED NO CHANGE IN THE SINO- SOVIET BORDER TALKS AND ADDED THAT THE PRC SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM. THE OFFICIAL ALSO QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR ANY LARGE NUMBER OF US TROOPS IN KOREA. (SECRET) MOSCOW 3619, 4/2.

4. INDOCHINA OPERATIONS

THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, A TOTAL OF TEN MAJOR CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 1900 ON APRIL 2. ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE REPORTED NEAR SONG BE AND THE TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP. SOUTHEAST OF SAIGON A VIETNAMESE VILLAGE CHIEF AND A HAMLET CHIEF WERE ASSASSINATED. (SECRET) NMCC OPSUM, 4/3.

AIR OPERATIONS

DURING THE PERIOD, 149 US TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND GUNSHIP SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN CAMBODIA. IN ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS, USAF B-52 S FLEW 60 SORTIES. THEY
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STRUCK TARGETS IN THE NORTHEASTERN, CENTRAL, AND SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF CAMBODIA. (SECRET) NMCC OPSUM, 4/3.

5. AMBASSADOR MEETS CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON TALKS

IN RESPONSE TO AN APRIL 2 REVIEW BY AMBASSADOR DAVIS OF OUR POSITION ON BILATERAL TALKS, CHILEAN FOREIGN

MINISTER ALMEYDA ARGUED THAT US DEMANDS FOR DIRECT

NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNREALIZABLE IN THE CURRENT CHILEAN CONTEXT, WHILE THE 1914 TREATY PROPOSAL REPRESENTED SOMETHING WE COULD DO NOW TO MAKE PROGRESS. ALMEYDA EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT THE US POSITION WAS NOT ONE OF REJECTION OF THE TREATY OR OF RUPTURE OF THE TALKS. DAVIS SOMEWHAT DOUBTS THERE WAS A PRIOR CHILEAN DECISION TO PROVOKE A " CONFRONTATION." (SECRET) SANTIAGO 1364, 4/2 (EXDIS).

6. YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC REQUEST FOR URGENT MILITARY AID

THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED CHARGE NEWTON IN SANAA TO PRESS THE YAR LEADERSHIP TO RAISE WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE THE YAR' S CONCERN OVER AN ALLEGED IMMINENT ATTACK BY THE PEOPLE' S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN. MEANWHILE, THE BRITISH ARE CALM AND SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE REPORTED PLANS TO ATTACK AND SUSPECT THE SCARE IS RELATED TO A YARG DESIRE FOR US AND BRITISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO SEND A MISSION TO STUDY THE YAR' S NEEDS. (SECRET) STATE 060629; LONDON 3805, 4/2 (EXDIS). RUSH

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